

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /057 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JSBOARDMAN:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ
EA/P:JCANNON

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P R 062207Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 130138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR JUNE 6 DEPARTMENT
PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE

QUESTION: WE HAVE SEEN NEWS REPORTS THAT AMERICAN
OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THE US WILL WITHDRAW ABOUT
6,000 GROUND TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA BY THE END
OF NEXT YEAR IN THE FIRST STAGE OF A PHASED DRAWDOWN
OF ALL GROUND FORCES. WILL YOU COMMENT ON THESE
REPORTS?

ANSWER: WE ARE AWARE OF THE NEWS REPORTS. PRESIDENT
CARTER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO
WITHDRAW ALL US GROUND FORCES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA. GENERAL BROWN AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB HAVE
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CONSULTED WITH KOREAN AND JAPANESE OFFICIALS ON THESE
PLANS BUT DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. WE HAVE
NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

QUESTION: FURTHER PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT THE US
DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE WITHDRAWAL PLAN WAS BASED
ON SOVIET AND CHINESE ASSURANCES THAT THEY HAD NO

INTENTION OF INCREASING TENSION IN KOREA. ARE THESE
REPORTS TRUE?

ANSWER: ON BACKGROUND, WHILE OUR POLICY IS NOT TO
COMMENT ON OUR DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS WE WOULD ADVISE
YOU AGAINST INTERPRETING THIS AS TO MEAN CONFIRMATION
OF THESE REPORTS.

UNQUOTE

2. SPOKESMAN READ PREPARED GUIDANCE WHEN ASKED ABOUT
PRESS REPORTS THAT 6,000 TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY END
OF 1978. HE ALSO FOLLOWED GUIDANCE ON REPORTED CHINESE
AND SOVIET ASSURANCES.

3. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHEN END OF FIVE YEAR PERIOD
WOULD BE, SPOKESMAN SAID HE PRESUMED IT WOULD BE 1982.
SPOKESMAN ALSO RESPONDED TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY STATING
THAT THERE IS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSBOARDMAN:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
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Film Number: D770201-0761
Format: TEL
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TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MARR, KS, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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